

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010
Executive Session - 7:00 pm
Open Session - 7:30 pm

1. Convene Meeting –

Kathleen Swanson, Chair, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 21, 2010.

a. Roll Call –

All members were present: Mrs. Swanson, Chair, Ms. Shelley Pezza, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Patricia Fountain, member, Mr. Robert Wallace, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Greg Piccirilli, Legal Counsel, and Mrs. McCullough, FSC Secretary.

b. Pledge of Allegiance –

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.

2. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation passed on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain. Vote = 3-0-0.

3. Reconvene Open Session –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the school committee reconvened Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
Mrs. Swanson, Chair, shared that the School Committee had a general discussion on litigation and no votes were taken. She also reported that at the November 23, 2010 meeting, the School Committee failed to report on two votes taken: one vote on paragraph 10 of Dr. Irving's contract. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.; the second vote was on paragraph 11 of Dr. Irving's contract. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0. These paragraphs were regarding sick and vacation days.

4. Requests to Use School Facilities –

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee approved the building request from Scituate / Foster Girls Soccer to use the gym from January 2011 through April 2011 for practice. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson the School Committee approved the request from SMCT to use Mrs. Murphy's room for a meeting on January 3, 2011. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee accepted the Open Minutes of November 23, 2010 as amended. Amendment: 5. Old Business, item b. Vote = 2-1-0. vote as follows: Mrs. Swanson – yes, Ms. Pezza – yes, Mrs. Fountain – no. Section 7 Executive Session: the votes of the November meeting were reported out at the December meeting. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Mrs. Swanson the School Committee accepted the Executive Session Minutes as amended. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

6. Approval of Warrants –

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee approved the Warrant dated November 23, 2010 in the amount of \$227, 720.70. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Kathleen Swanson – yes

Shelley Pezza – yes

Patricia Fountain – no

On motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee approved the warrant dated December 12, 2010 in the amount of \$115,966.20. Motion passed.

Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Kathleen Swanson – yes

Shelley Pezza – yes

Patricia Fountain - no

7. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Budget 2010-2011 –

Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Wallace updated the School Committee on the impact of the \$156,000 that the Town Council took away.

b. Intercom Bid -

Mr. Wallace reviewed with the Committee the ten thousand dollar (10K) approved Capital Improvement award for the Intercom. The bid came in at \$11,600 from Uncle's Sound but if the School Department ordered before December 25, 2010 a 10% discount could be applied leaving a deficit of \$440.00. The School Committee approved expending the \$440 from a maintenance line item at the November 23, 2010 meeting. A grant application has been submitted with The Trust. If the grant is awarded, a maximum of \$1000, it will be applied to the approved deficit of \$440.00.

c. Buy Board –

Mrs. Swanson gave a brief description of the Buy Board. If the School Committee signs on, there is no obligation use. Discussion followed. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee approved to allow the Superintendent of Captain Isaac Paine School to utilize "Buy Board" as a purchasing option. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

8. New Business (for discussion/action)

a. Swamp Meadow Theater – fee easement –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the School Committee voted to table this item until January 25, 2011 meeting and have a discussion with Swamp Meadow Theatre representatives present. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

b. Bullying Policy #5131.3 – review/update –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee voted on creating a Bullying Task Force through the School Improvement Team. RIDE does not recommend re-writing the present policy in place (which follows RIDE's). There is a PBIS initiative established which the school follows and is supported by RIDE. Both School

Committee members withdrew their motion and a presentation from the PBIS team will take place in the future.

c. Legal Counsel –

Mrs. Fountain asked about the need for Legal Counsel, to what capacity would this individual be used and cost is a definite consideration. Discussion followed. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee approved the Chair, Mrs. Swanson, to extend the “Olive Branch” to explore the option of utilizing the Town Solicitor. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

d. First Student Radio –repair/upgrade –

Mr. Wallace reported on the First Student radio for bus communication. First Student reported that the antenna needs to be higher for better communication and wiring from the unit to the antenna needs to be upgraded. Mr. Wallace explained that these improvements would be at First Student’s expense.

e. Public Comment Policy – development

Mrs. Swanson presented the other members of the Committee with her version of a Public Comment Policy. This item is slated as a future agenda item.

f. 2011 FSC Meeting Dates –

Mr. Wallace presented the School Committee meeting dates for 2011. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee approved the scheduled meeting dates for 2011 as recommended. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

g. Robert’s Rules –

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee rescinded the motion of adopting Robert’s Rules at the November 23, 2010. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Kathleen Swanson – yes

Shelley Pezza – yes

Patricia Fountain – no

h. Budget 2011-2012 –

Mr. Wallace presented the School Committee with the first draft of the 2011-2012 budget and will clarify in his Superintendent’s Report.

i. Grant Writing –

Mrs. Swanson relayed to the Committee a person is willing to donate their time to writing grants for the Committee and School. Mrs. Swanson is will to be the liaison and that there is no cost to the School Department. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee voted to appoint Mrs. Swanson as liaison for the purpose of working with the Superintendent for future Grants. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0

j. Community Engagement –

Mrs. Swanson would like to advertise in the foster Home Journal any Community Outreach Projects and will work with the Superintendent to find needs and open these needs up to the Community with their skills. Mrs. Fountain suggested posting on a project by project basis.

9. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence –

There were no communications.

b. Superintendent's Report –

Mr. Wallace updated the Committee on future class sizes and enrollment and referenced items on the 2011-2012 budget. He then informed the Committee that in June our transportation contract with First Student will expire and the need to go out to bid. He asked the School Committee to “fast track” the RFP for transportation in conjunction with the budget in order to have a more accurate dollar amount to present to the Town Council. The RFP will be posted in the Sunday, January 9, 2011, Legal Ads section of the Projo, with a walk-through on January 14, 2011 and a bid opening on January 20, 2011. This schedule will allow him to bring the bid to the School Committee for the January 25, 2011 meeting and for them to approve. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee authorized the Superintendent to advertise the RFP for transportation. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Mrs. Swanson the School Committee formalized the bid opening and scheduled the opening for the 20th of January 2011 at Captain Isaac Paine School at 7:15pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mr. Wallace reviewed the preliminary 2011-2012 budget with the School Committee. Discussion followed. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the School Committee scheduled Budget Workshops for Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7:15pm and Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7:15pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mr. Wallace reviewed the Five Year Capital Budget plans/request with the School Committee. For 2011-2012, Roof upgrade at an approximate cost of \$25,000 and well upgrade also at a cost of \$25,000. In 2012-2013 Capitol Budget year finalizing the roof upgrade at a cost of \$25,000. In 2013-2014, window replacement at \$12,000 and classroom ventilation at \$10,000. In the 2014-2015 Capital Budget year, finishing the window replacement at \$12,000 and painting the classrooms at \$40,000. For 2015-2016 Capital Budget year an addition to the existing garage at a cost of \$40,000. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee approved the Capitol Budget requests. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

c. Public Comment –

There was no Public comment

d. Future Agenda Items –

Audit Report

Surplus numbers

Legal counsel

Public Comment Policy

Temporary Budget Committee recommendations

State Representative – Mike Chippendale

Parent Involvement Policy – Title 1

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee reconvened the Executive Session at 9:50pm after a five minute recess. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson at 10:53pm the School Committee reconvened Open Session. Mr. Piccirilli, Legal Counsel, relayed that litigation was discussed and

Mr. Wallace's contract was extended to January 25, 2011 on a three day work week and the vote was 2-1-0.

Vote as follows –

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain - no

10. Adjournment –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee voted to adjourn at 10:55pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary foster School Committee